GREY

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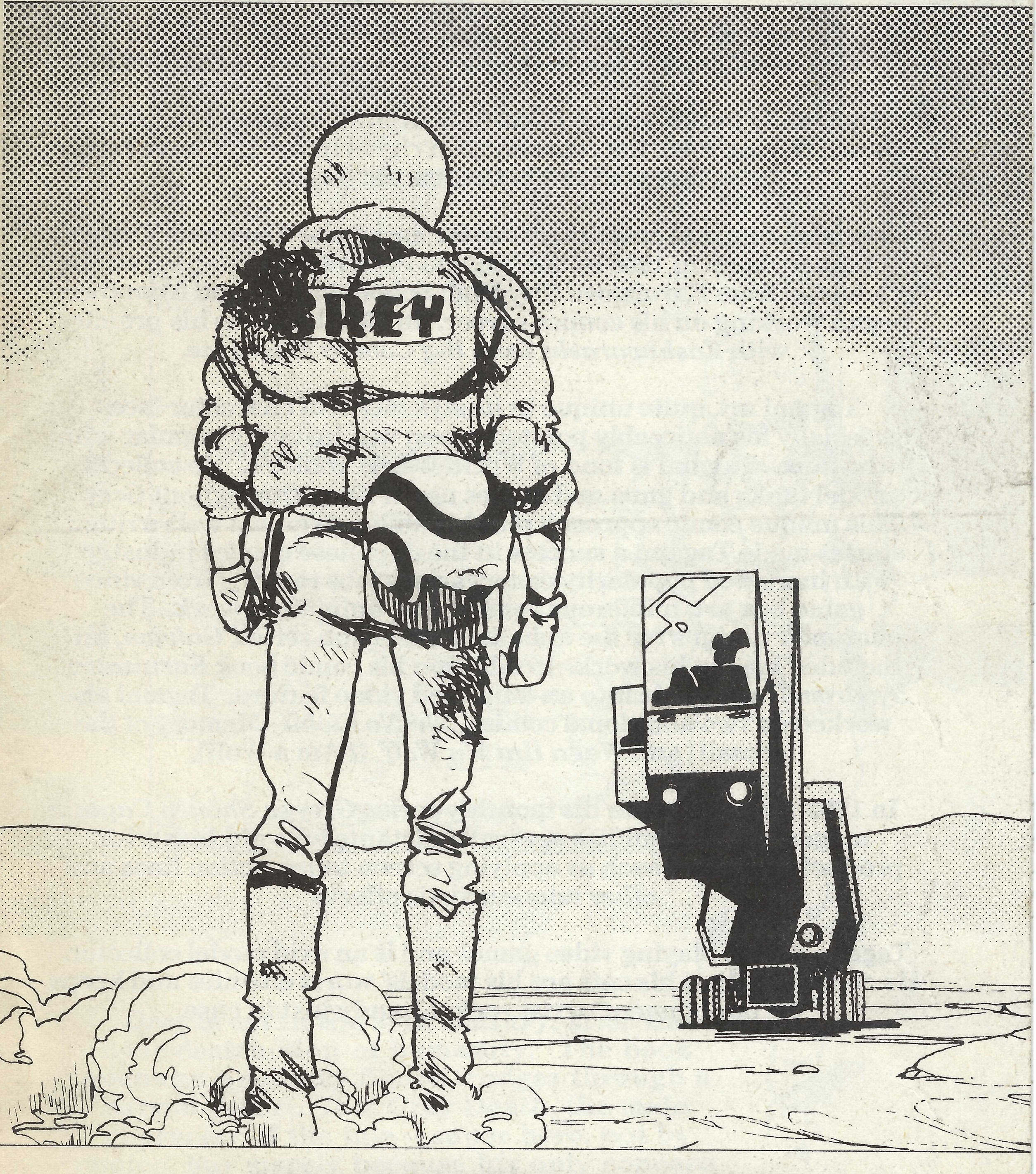


BY YOSHIHISA TAGAMI

GREY™

Grey -- an unconventional super hero feature from Viz Communication -- is scheduled to be released this October.

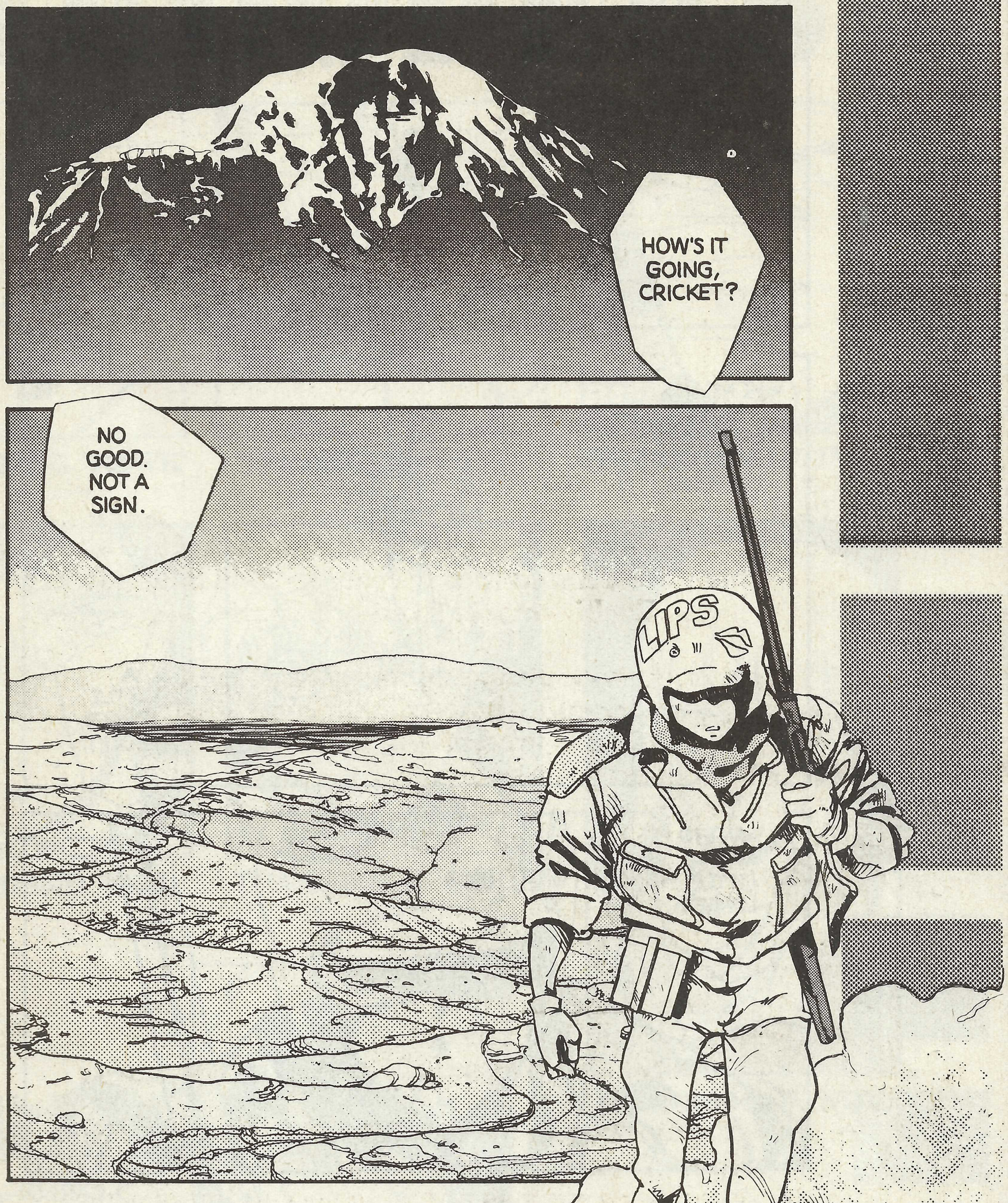
Originally published by Tokuma Shoten Publishing Co., Ltd. in Japan during 1986, the reproduction rights in the U.S. have been granted to Viz Communications.

Grey is an original creation of writer and artist Yoshihisa Tagami. Tagami, born in 1958 in the Nagano Prefecture in Japan, was graduated from Karuizawa City High School in 1976 and from there began working on his comics career. In 1978 he made his premier with *Zashiwarashi* from *Big Comics Magazine*.

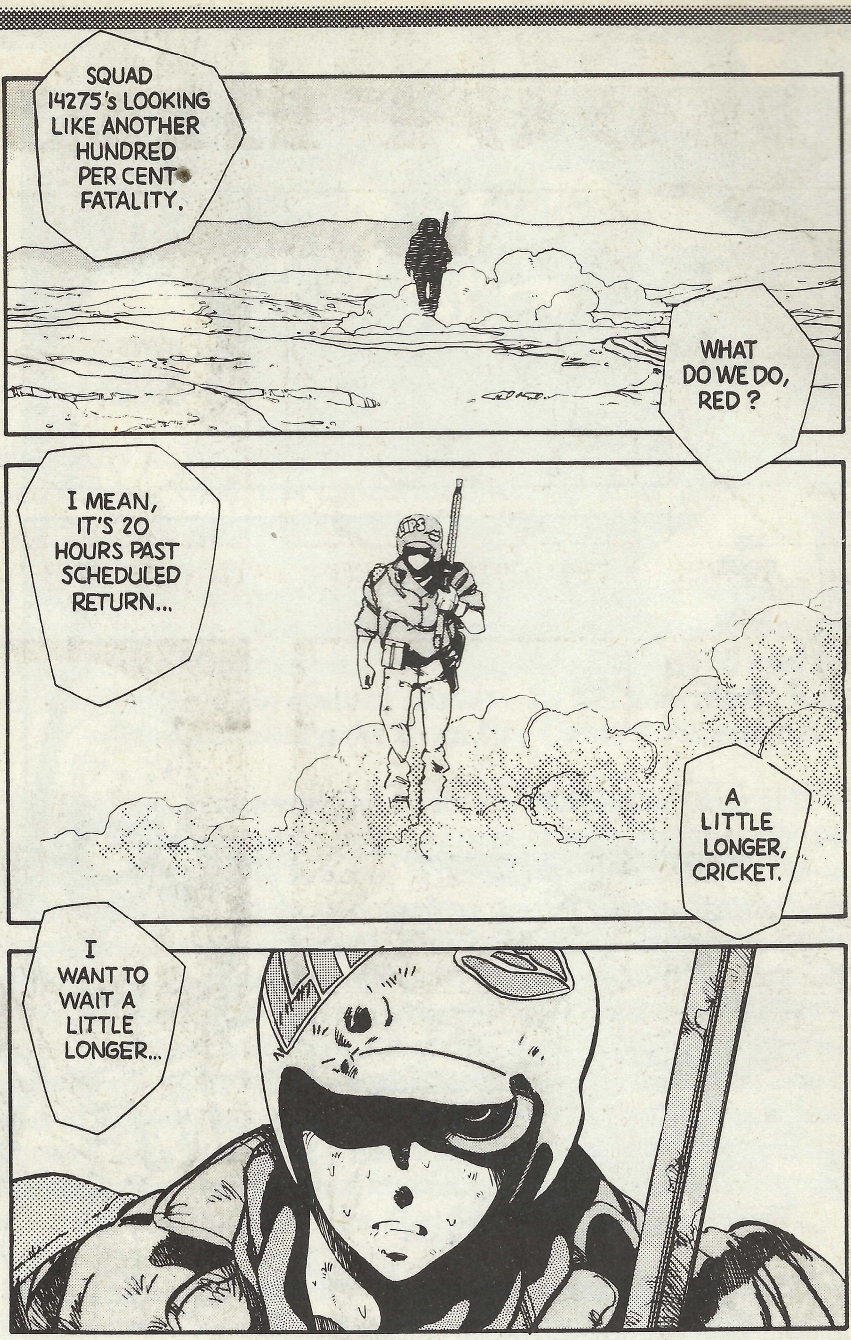
Tagami art, quite unique in its stylization of character faces (especially his noticeably pointed noses) was instantly popular with the fans. Tagami is fond of World War II vehicles. He collects model tanks and guns and makes use of them throughout *Grey*. This unique comic approach plus his ability to create well-written stories made Tagami a success in the Japanese comics industry. With increased popularity came various jobs ranging from video game box art, numerous comics, and animation work. The character designs for the animated television series, *Galvion*, are included among his work. In addition his comic book *Karuizawa Syndrome* was made into an animated video feature. Tagami also worked on two additional comics, *Ishi No Kioku* (Memory of the Fossil) and *Waga Hai Wa Wolf* (I Am a Wolf).

In 1985, Tagami began his monthly series *Grey* in *Shonen Captain* magazine. Tagami has several assistants who aid him with production chores such as applying screen tones, action lines and other minor artistic effects.

Tagami enjoys playing video games and is an avid model collector. He comments that his cats are his models' worst enemies and keeps a "punishment" wrist rocket handy just in case.

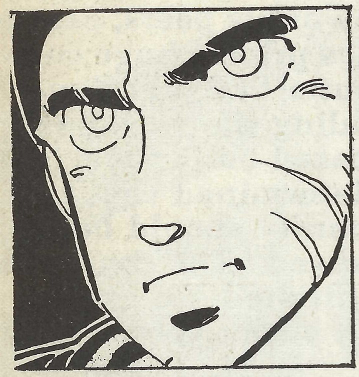

HOW'S IT GOING, CRICKET?
NO GOOD. NOT A SIGN.
LIPS

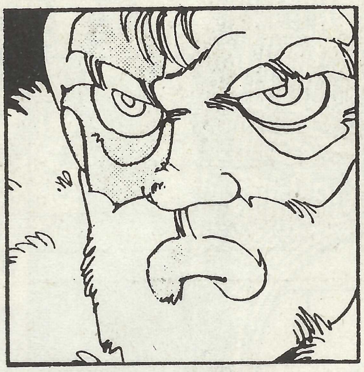
Grey is set in the 26th century, after the near-destruction of humanity. The book opens as a solitary figure trudges through a barren desert. It is Grey Death, the main character of the tale -- super hero, not by choice, but merely because his only concern is survival at any cost.

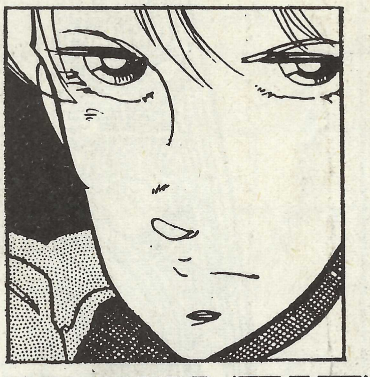

SQUAD 14275's LOOKING LIKE ANOTHER HUNDRED PER CENT FATALITY.
WHAT DO WE DO, RED ?
I MEAN, IT'S 20 HOURS PAST SCHEDULED RETURN...
A LITTLE LONGER, CRICKET.
I WANT TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...

Once again, Grey is the sole survivor of a battle. As his figure grows clearer on the monitor, he can be seen wearing a battered helmet with the name "Lips" marked upon it. Lips was Grey's girlfriend who died in battle. These battles are fought by "troopers," soldiers from the remaining towns on earth.

TROOPERS


TNO-112004-C 'HAWK'


TPP-009717-D 'LEO'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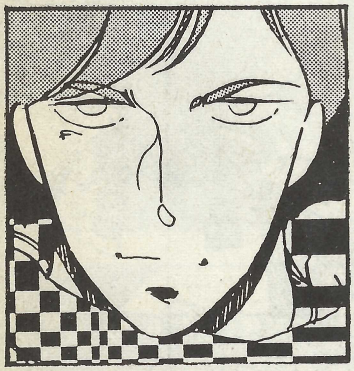
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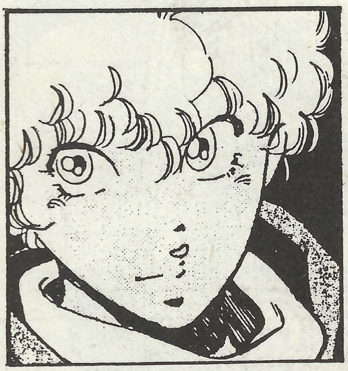
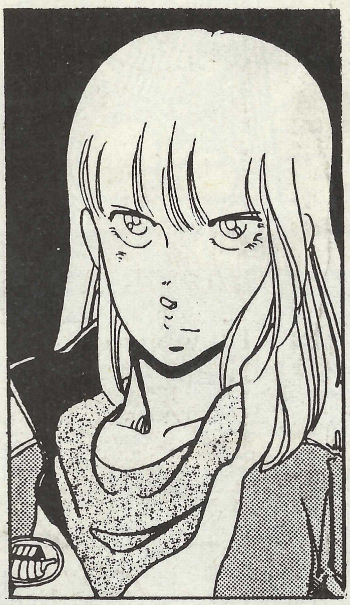
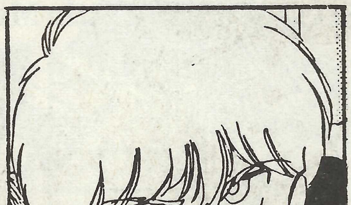
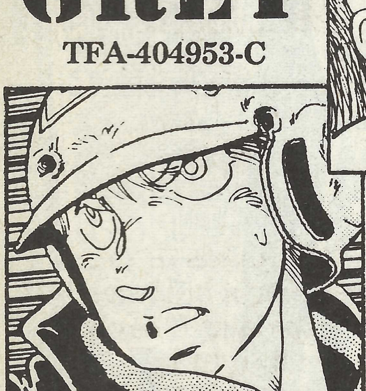

TPA-268379-E 'CHRIS'


TNC-095042-F 'NOVA'

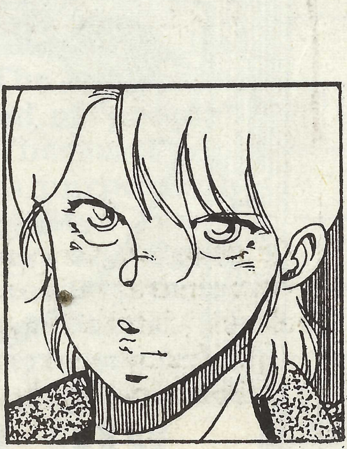
GREY

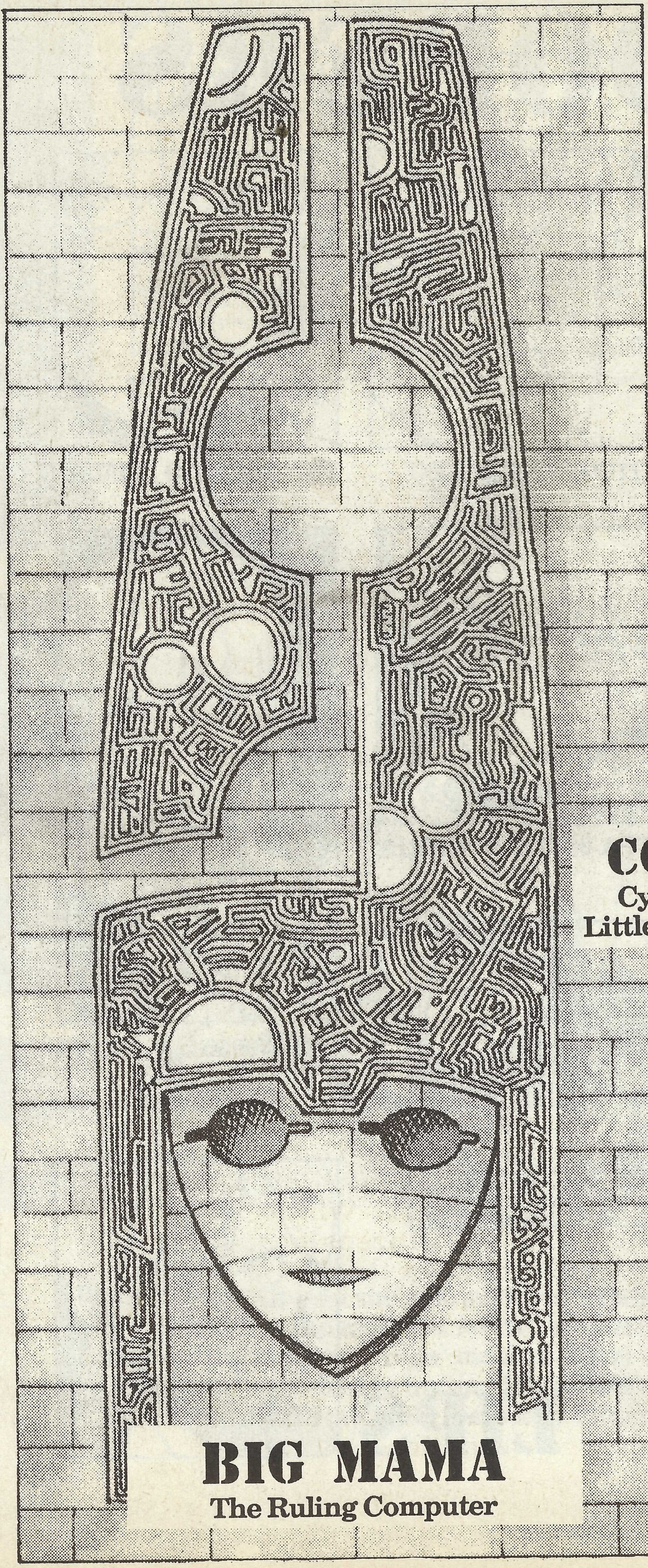
TFA-404953-C





LIPS

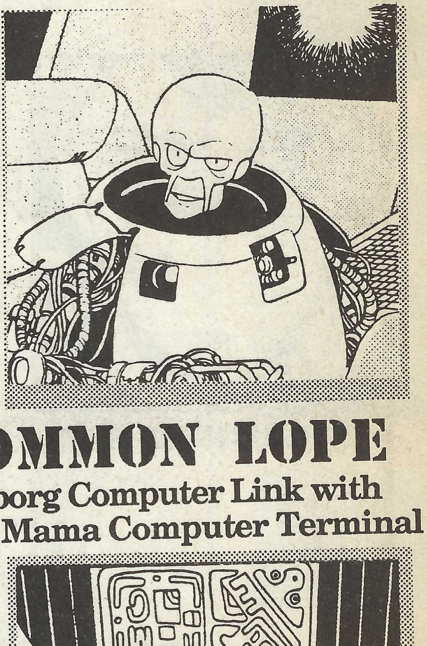




BIG MAMA

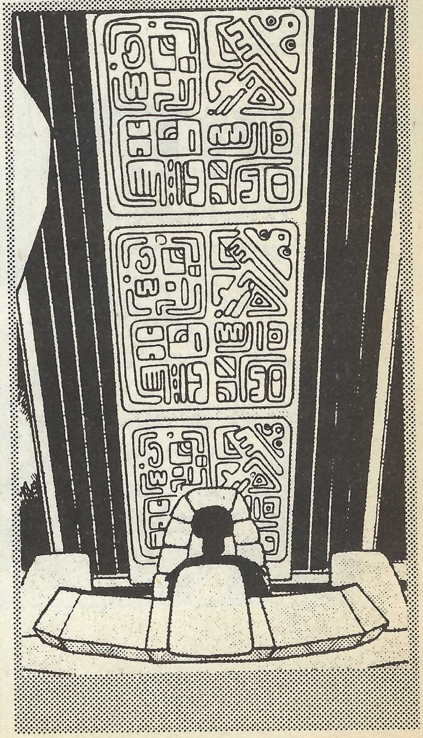
The Ruling Computer

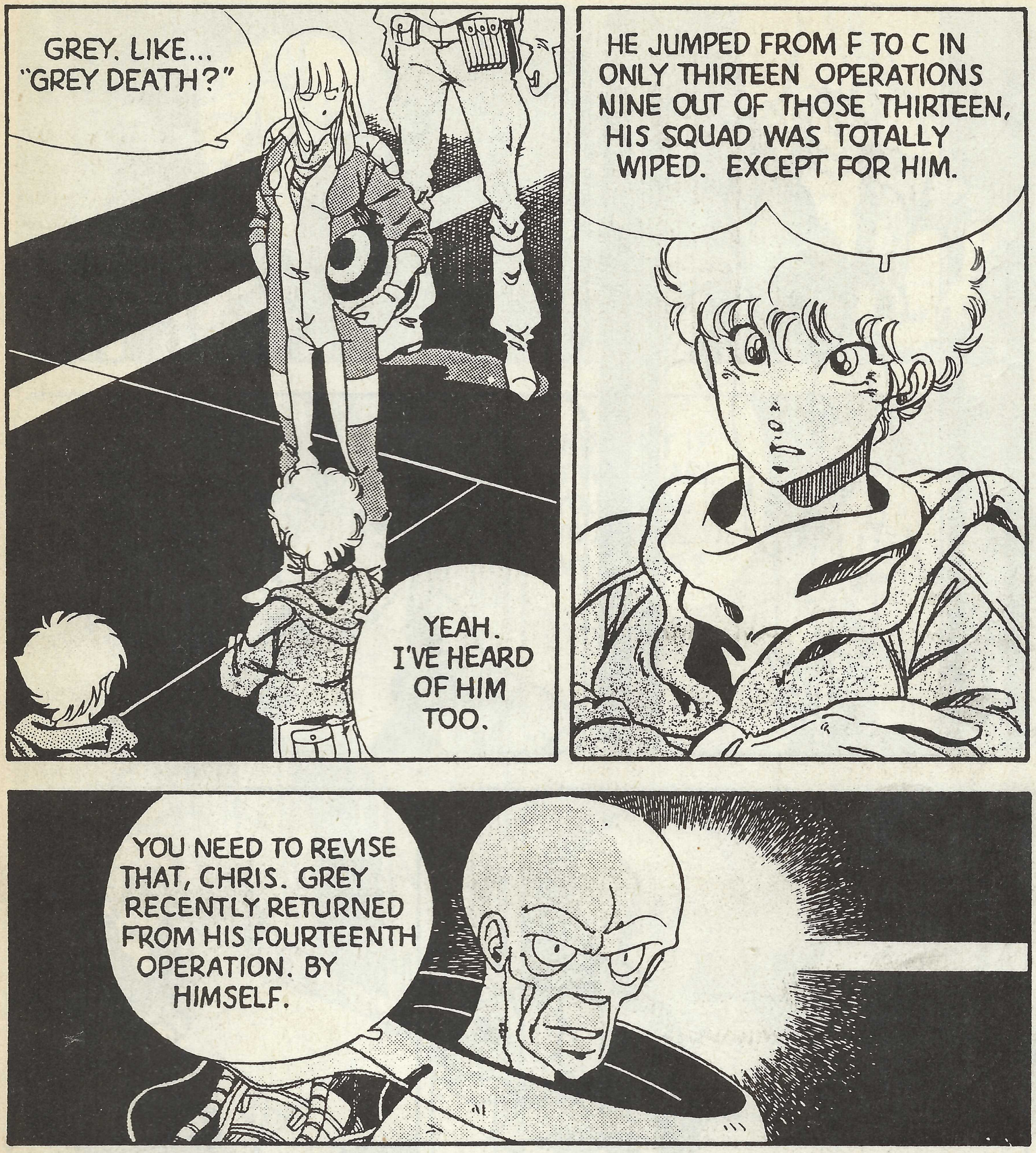
Unknown to Grey or any of his peers, centuries prior a huge computer had taken over ruling the world and based on input data determined that humanity should be destroyed. The computer initiated a huge, destructive war.



COMMON LOPE

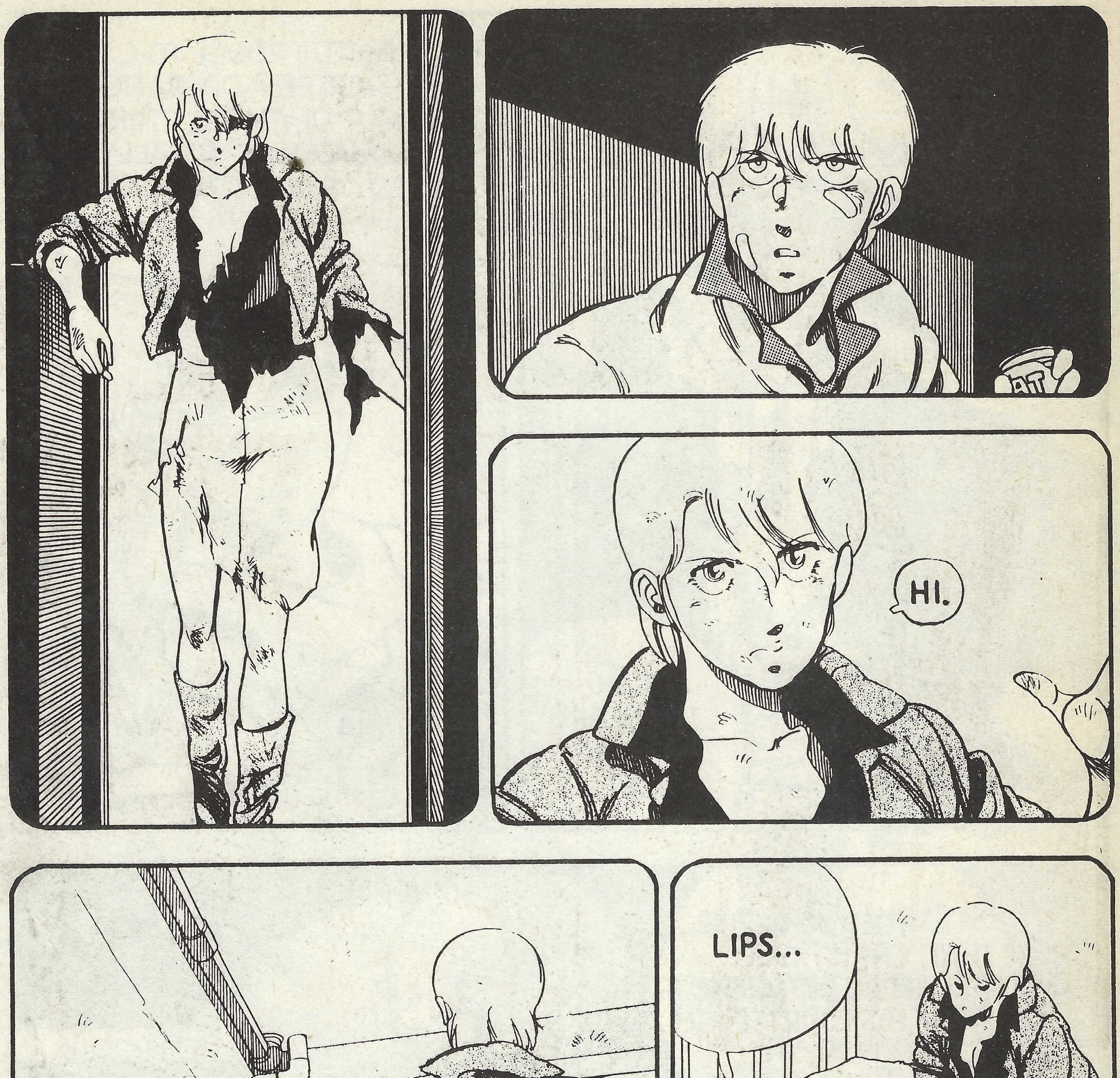
Cyborg Computer Link with Little Mama Computer Terminal

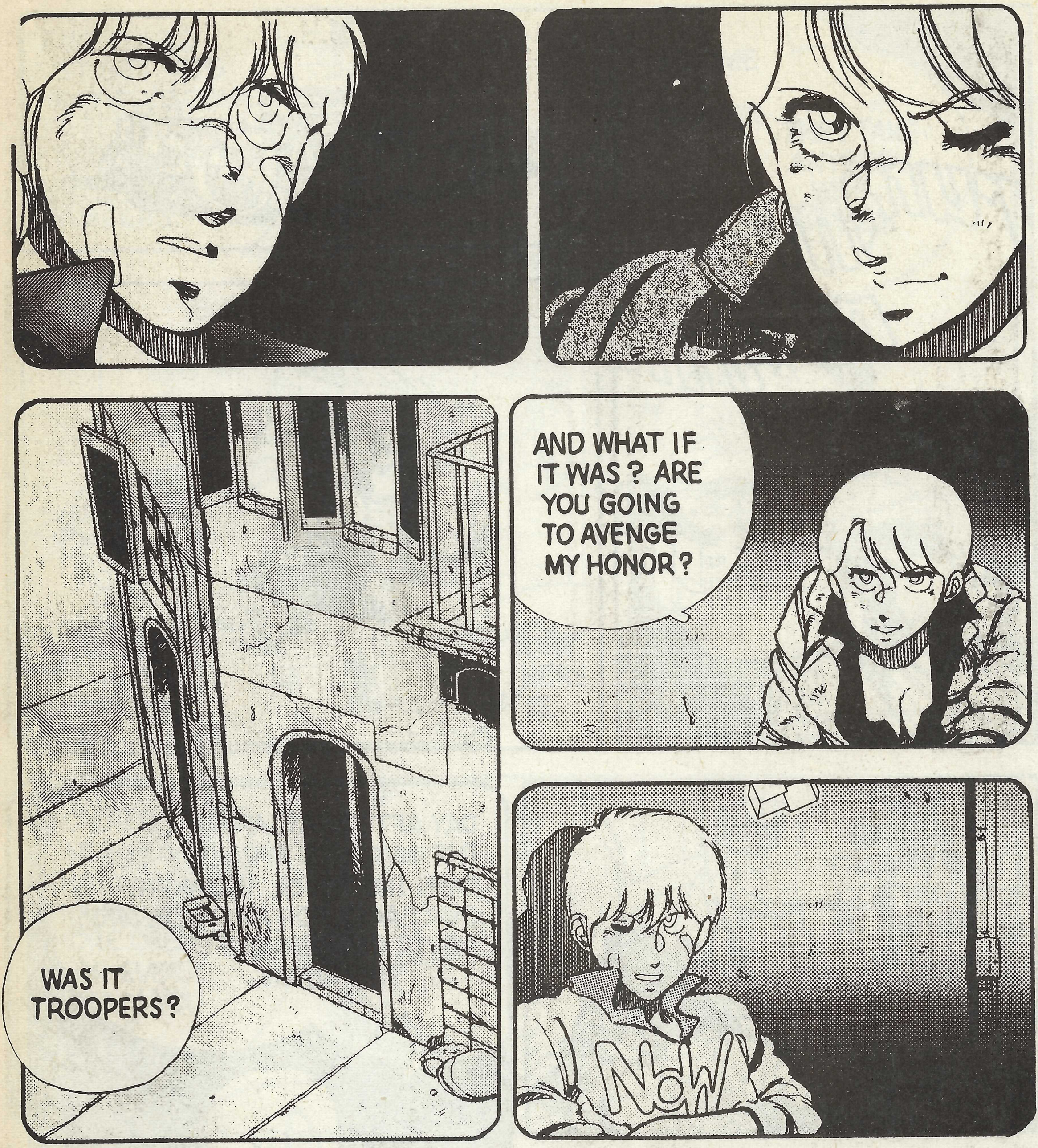


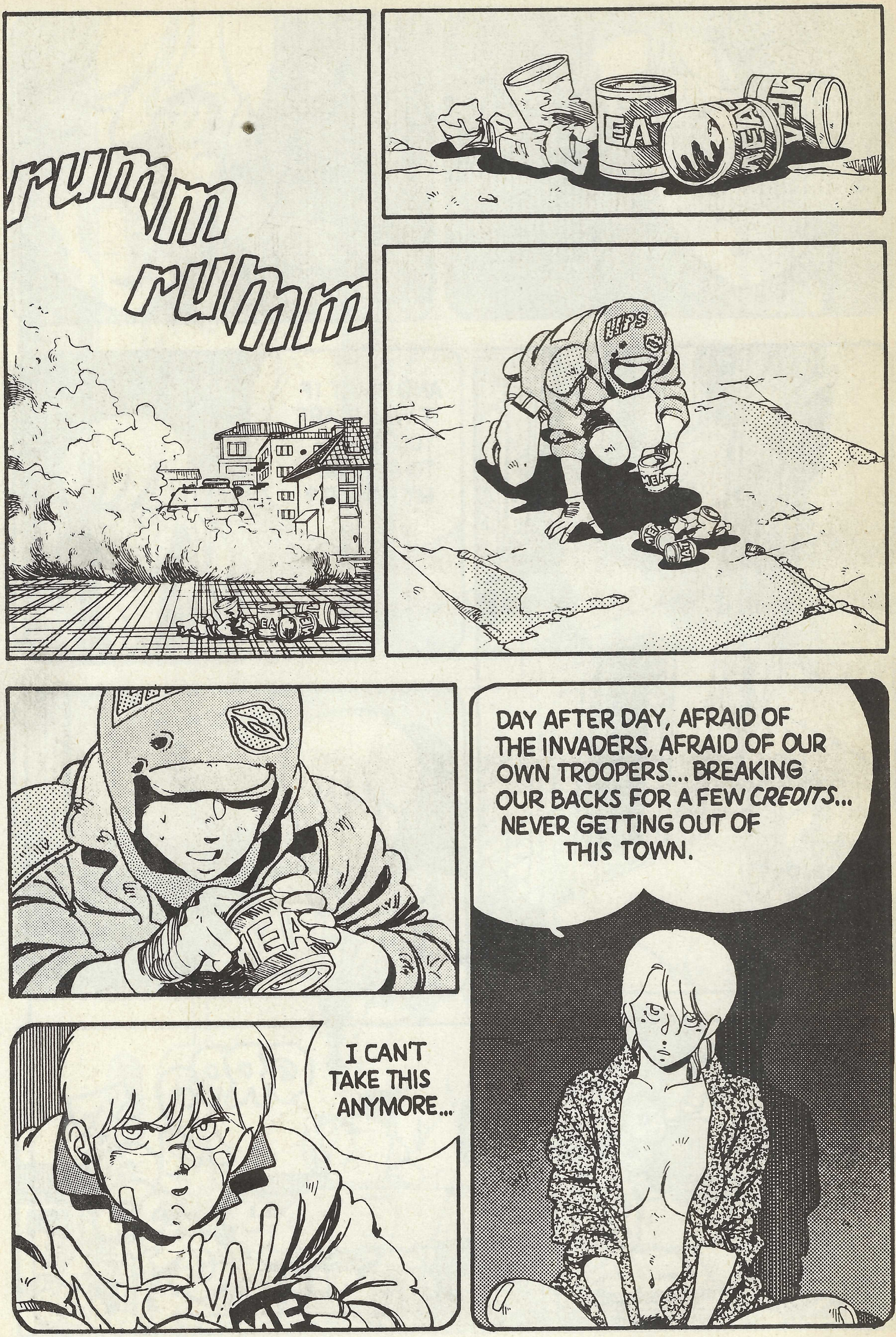

GREY. LIKE... "GREY DEATH?"
YEAH. I'VE HEARD OF HIM TOO.
HE JUMPED FROM F TO C IN ONLY THIRTEEN OPERATIONS NINE OUT OF THOSE THIRTEEN, HIS SQUAD WAS TOTALLY WIPED. EXCEPT FOR HIM.
YOU NEED TO REVISE THAT, CHRIS. GREY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM HIS FOURTEENTH OPERATION. BY HIMSELF.

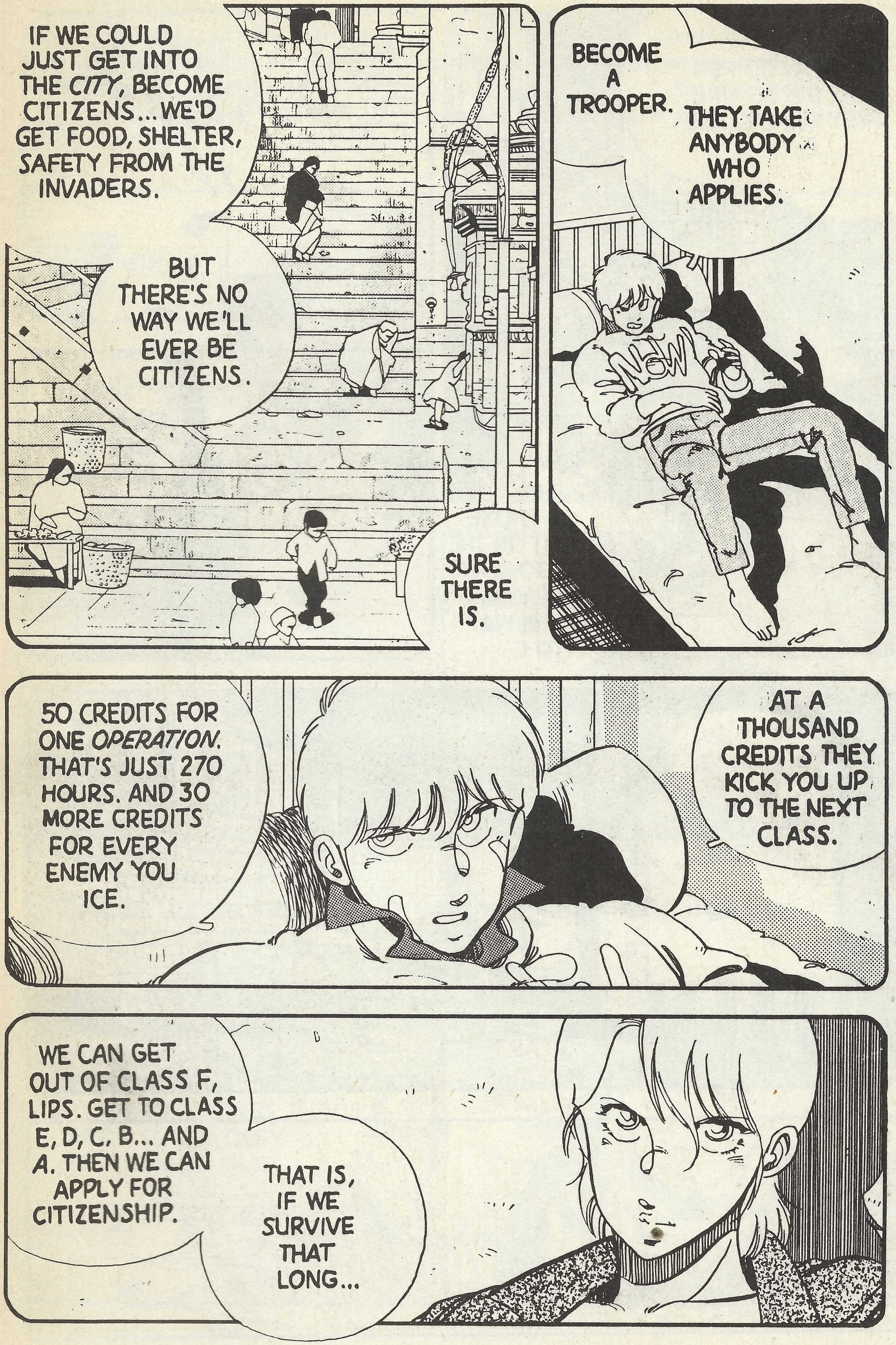
After the terrible holocaust, and as time passed, humans began to replenish the world. The computer then devised a social system comprised of "people" and "citizens" -- and eternal fighting. Whereas People live in squalid, horrible slums, Citizens purportedly live in splendid comfort in the "City."

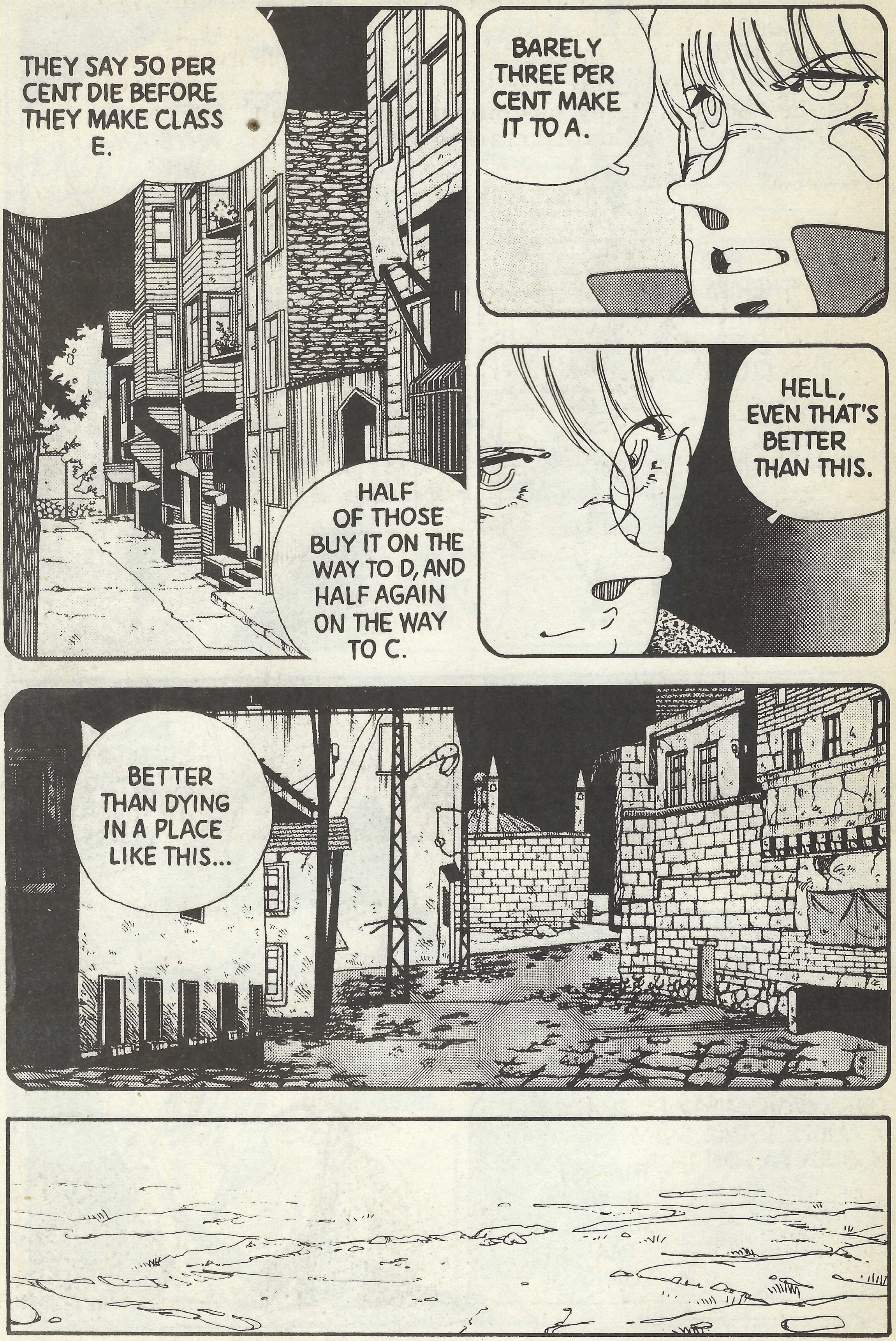
If people are willing to become troopers and fight, they can earn credits and gradually move up from Class F to Class A, eventually becoming Citizens. Unfortunately, the fatality rate as one progresses from one class to the next is extremely high. Lips was one of these casualties.


HI.
No!
LIPS...

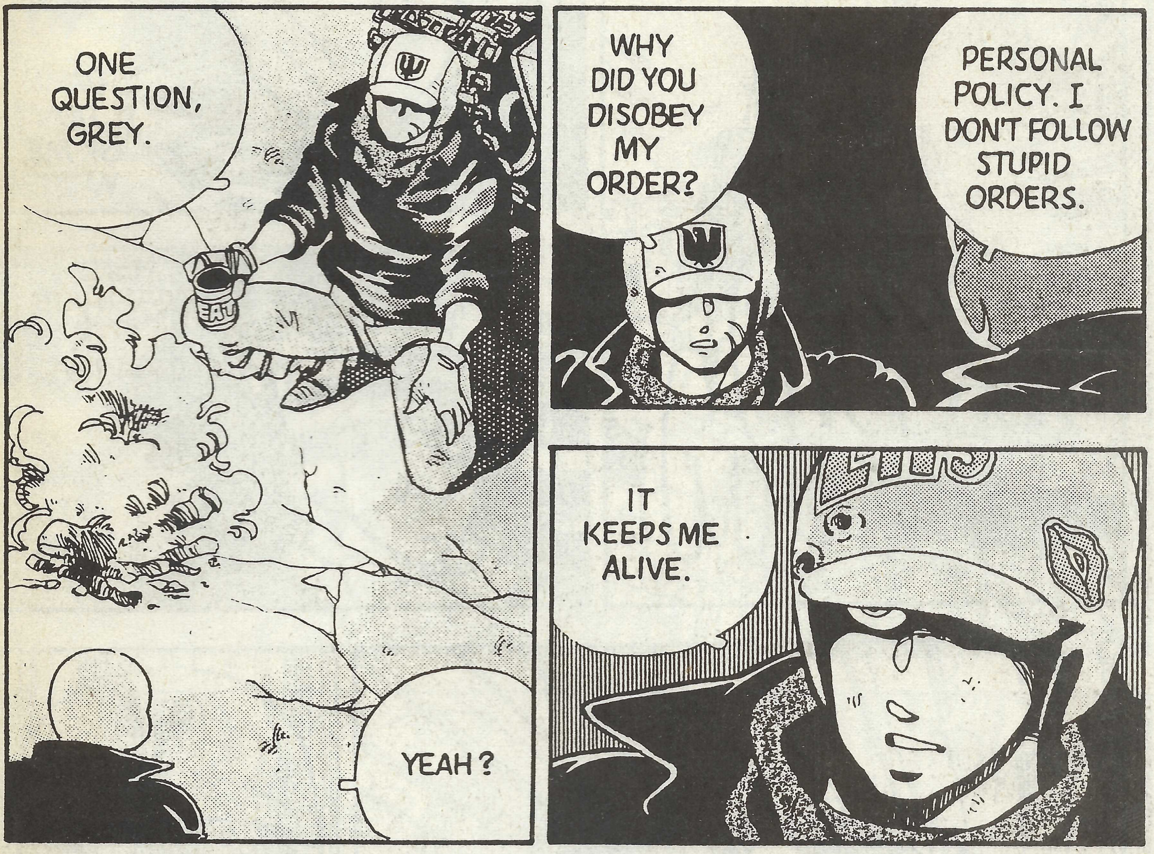

WAS IT TROOPERS?
AND WHAT IF IT WAS? ARE YOU GOING TO AVENGE MY HONOR?
RUMM RUMM
GRROOM
GRROOM
GRROOM


rumm
rumm
DAY AFTER DAY, AFRAID OF THE INVADERS, AFRAID OF OUR OWN TROOPERS... BREAKING OUR BACKS FOR A FEW *CREDITS*... NEVER GETTING OUT OF THIS TOWN.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE...

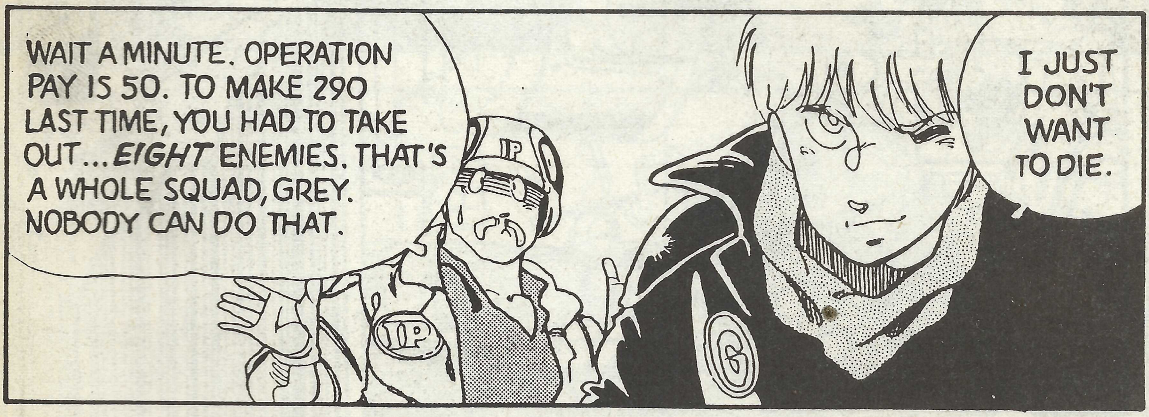

IF WE COULD JUST GET INTO THE *CITY*, BECOME CITIZENS... WE'D GET FOOD, SHELTER, SAFETY FROM THE INVADERS.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL EVER BE CITIZENS.
SURE THERE IS.
BECOME A TROOPER.
THEY TAKE ANYBODY WHO APPLIES.
NEW
50 CREDITS FOR ONE *OPERATION*. THAT'S JUST 270 HOURS. AND 30 MORE CREDITS FOR EVERY ENEMY YOU ICE.
AT A THOUSAND CREDITS THEY KICK YOU UP TO THE NEXT CLASS.
WE CAN GET OUT OF CLASS F, LIPS. GET TO CLASS E, D, C, B... AND *A*. THEN WE CAN APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP.
THAT IS, IF WE SURVIVE THAT LONG...

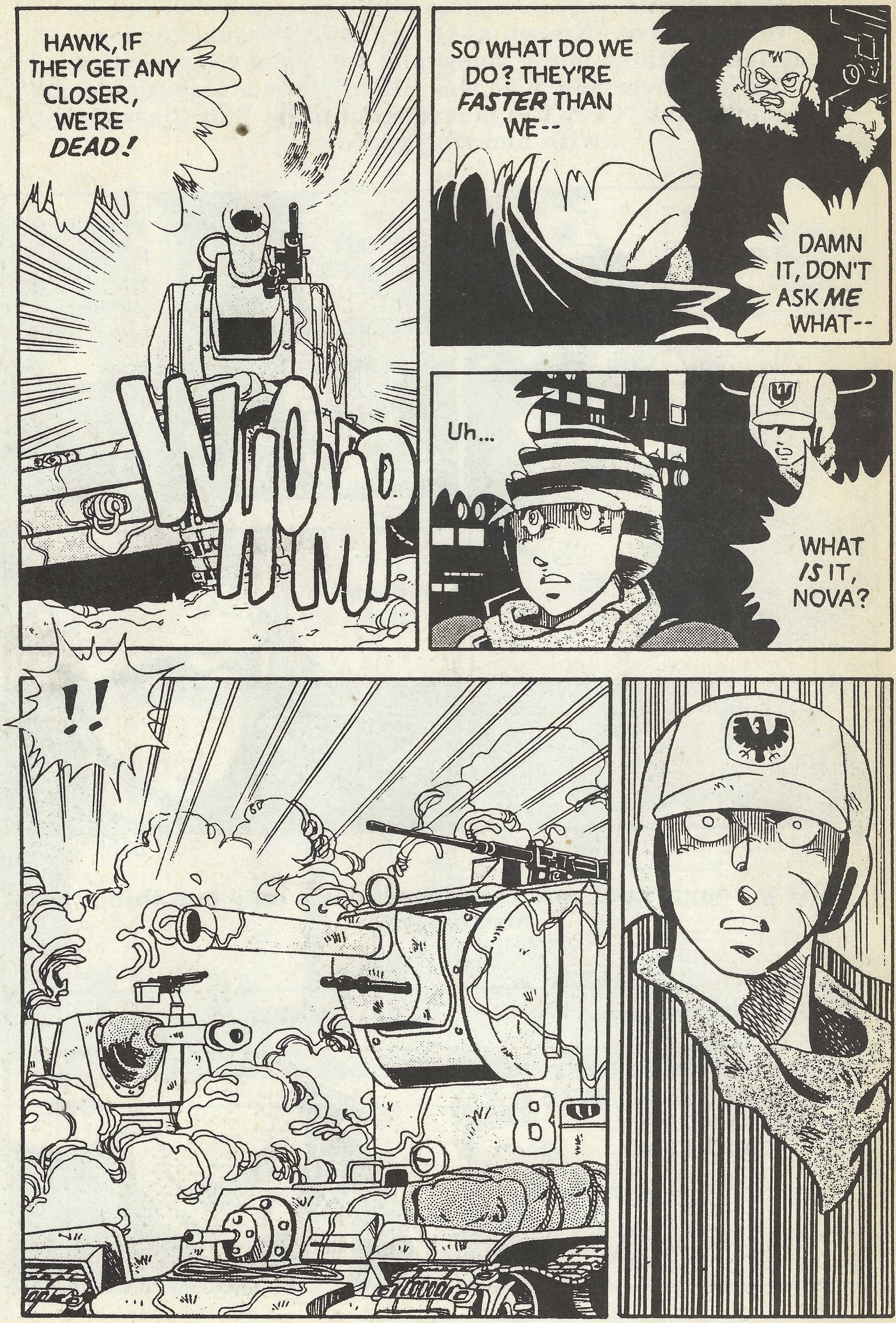

THEY SAY 50 PER CENT DIE BEFORE THEY MAKE CLASS E.
HALF OF THOSE BUY IT ON THE WAY TO D, AND HALF AGAIN ON THE WAY TO C.
BARELY THREE PER CENT MAKE IT TO A.
HELL, EVEN THAT'S BETTER THAN THIS.
BETTER THAN DYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

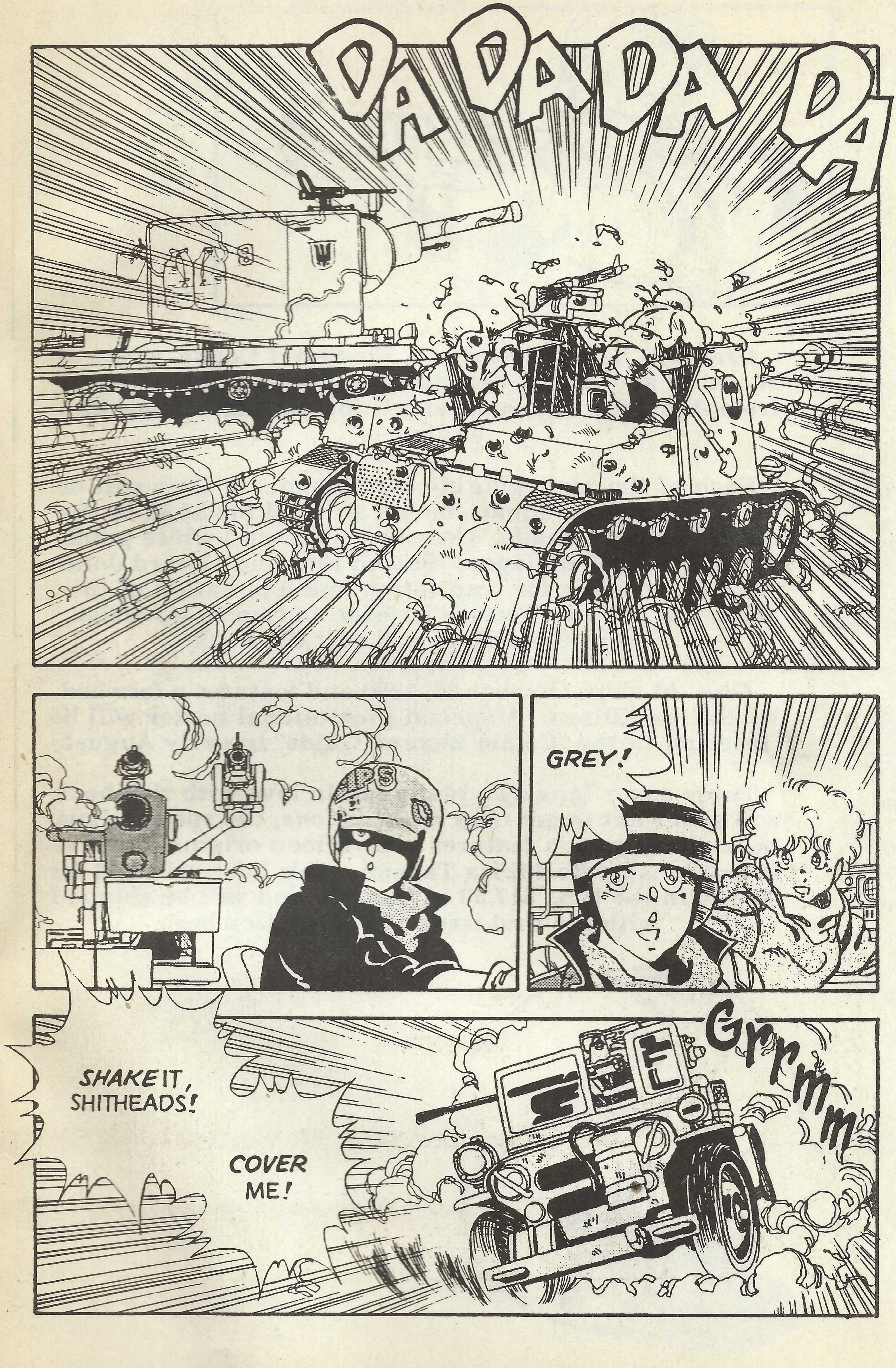
Grey, however, is relentless and fierce in his desire to remain alive. Known as Grey Death because he has defied death so many times and returned from battles in which everyone else was killed, he is a formidable combatant. Grey has moved from Class F to Class C with amazing rapidity.

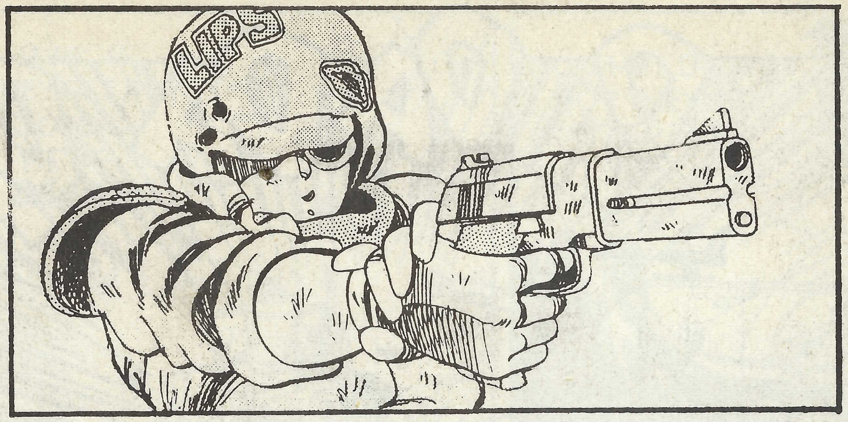

ONE QUESTION, GREY.
YEAH ?
WHY DID YOU DISOBEY MY ORDER?
PERSONAL POLICY. I DON'T FOLLOW STUPID ORDERS.
IT KEEPS ME ALIVE.

He is tough, cool, and concerned about only one thing -- his survival.


WAIT A MINUTE. OPERATION PAY IS 50. TO MAKE 290 LAST TIME, YOU HAD TO TAKE OUT... *EIGHT* ENEMIES. THAT'S A WHOLE SQUAD, GREY. NOBODY CAN DO THAT.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO DIE.


HAWK, IF THEY GET ANY CLOSER, WE'RE *DEAD!*
WHOMP
SO WHAT DO WE DO? THEY'RE *FASTER* THAN WE--
DAMN IT, DON'T ASK *ME* WHAT--
Uh...
WHAT *IS* IT, NOVA?
!!
8

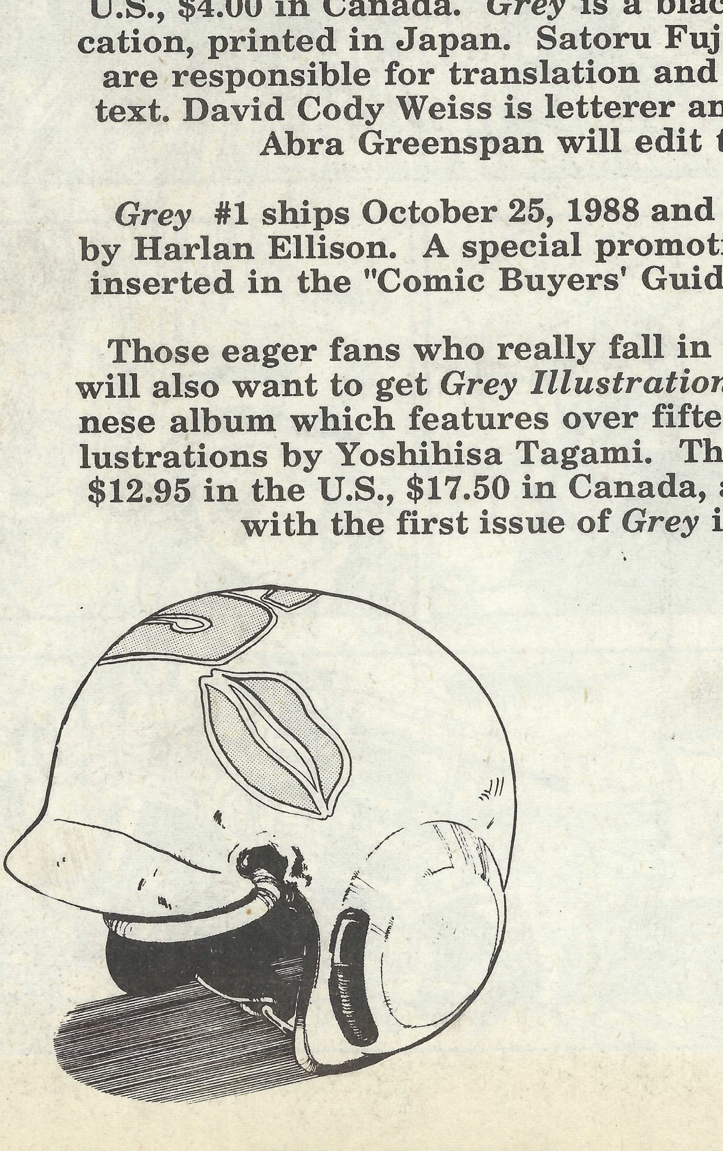

DA DA DA DA DA
GREY!
SHAKE IT, SHITHEADS!
COVER ME!
Grrrmm



Grey will be published as a Viz Select Comic, a line of monthly and serial original graphic novels, translated from Japanese and repackaged for an English-speaking audience.

Each of the nine monthly installments of *Grey* will be 72 pages, deluxe square-bound and sell for $2.95 in the U.S., $4.00 in Canada. *Grey* is a black-and-white publication, printed in Japan. Satoru Fuji and Gerard Jones are responsible for translation and adaptation of the text. David Cody Weiss is letterer and touch-up artist. Abra Greenspan will edit the book.

Grey #1 ships October 25, 1988 and features a forward by Harlan Ellison. A special promotional poster will be inserted in the "Comic Buyers' Guide" in early August.

Those eager fans who really fall in love with this book will also want to get *Grey Illustrations*, the special Japanese album which features over fifteen original color illustrations by Yoshihisa Tagami. This book will sell for $12.95 in the U.S., $17.50 in Canada, and will be shipped with the first issue of *Grey* in October.